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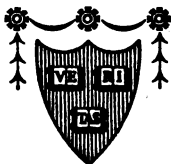
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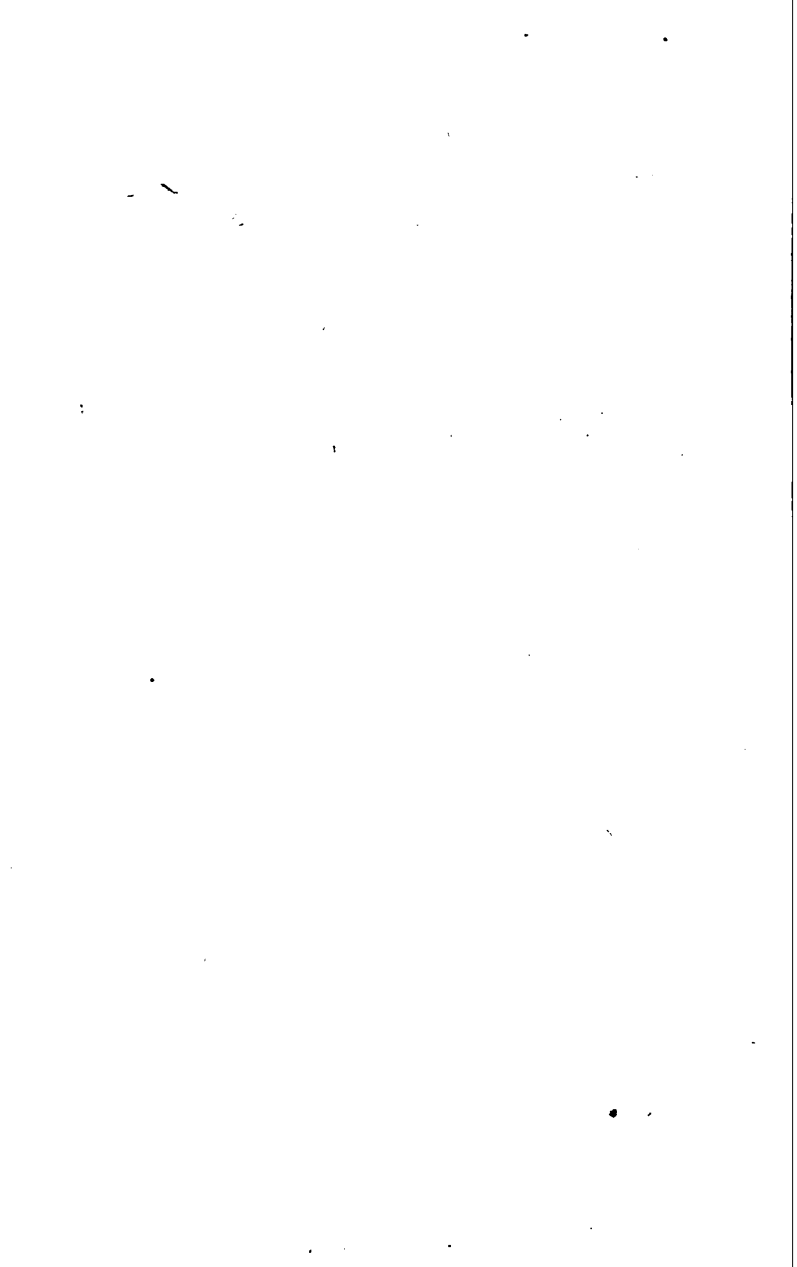
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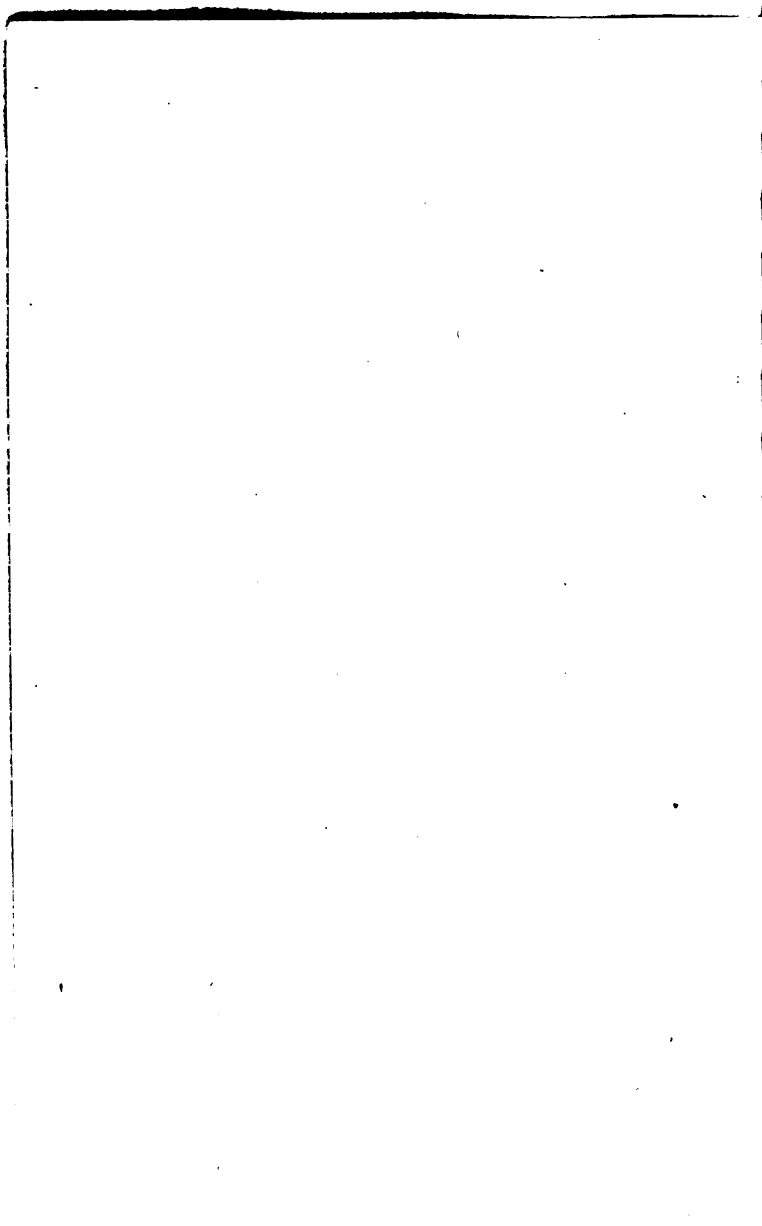




Hours in Dreamland

WITH THE

Modern English Poets.



Hours in Dreamland

WITH THE

Modern English Poets.

“ For even an hour
To hold possession of the height
Of nameless pathos and delight.”

—COVENTRY PATMORE.

KATHARINE LEE BATES.

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"We need some imaginative stimulus, some not impossible ideal which may shape vague hope, and transform it into effective desire, to carry us year after year, without disgust, through the routine work which is so large a part of life."

—PATER: *Marius*.

“ If there were dreams to sell,
What would you buy?
Some cost a passing bell,
Some a light sigh
That shakes from Life's fresh crown
Only a roseleaf down.
If there were dreams to sell —
Merry and sad to tell —
And the crier rung the bell,
What would you buy? ”

— THOMAS LOVELL BEDDOES.

I.

THE DREAM OF FREEDOM.

“ Glory and hope to new-born Liberty!
Hail to the mighty projects of the time!

* * *

O most belovéd Friend! a glorious time,
A happy time that was; triumphant looks
Were then the common language of all eyes;
As if awaked from sleep, the Nations hailed
Their great expectancy.

* * *

The soil of common life was, at that time,
Too hot to tread upon.

* * *

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very Heaven!”

— WORDSWORTH: *Prelude*.

“ Ye clouds! that far above me float and pause,¹
Whose pathless march no mortal may control!
Ye Ocean-waves! that wheresoe’er ye roll,
Yield homage only to eternal laws!
Ye Woods! that listen to the night-bird’s singing,
Midway the smooth and perilous slope reclined,
Save when your own imperious branches swinging,
Have made a solemn music of the wind!
Where like a man beloved of God,
Through glooms which never woodman trod,
How oft, pursuing fancies holy,
My moonlight way o’er flowering weeds I wound,
Inspired, beyond the guess of folly,
By each rude shape and wild unconquerable sound!

O ye loud waves! and O ye Forests high!
And O ye Clouds that far above me soar'd!
Thou rising Sun! thou blue rejoicing Sky!
Yea, everything that is and will be free!
Bear witness for me, wheresoe'er ye be,
With what deep worship I have still adored
The spirit of divinest liberty."

— COLERIDGE: *Ode to France.*

II.

THE DREAM OF PERFECTION.

“ When the last hope of trampled France had failed
Like a brief dream of unremaining glory,
From visions of despair I rose, and scaled
The peak of an ærial promontory,
Whose caverned base with the vexed surge was hoary;
And saw the golden dawn break forth, and waken
Each cloud, and every wave.”

“ Man, one harmonious soul of many a soul,
Whose nature is its own divine control,
Where all things flow to all, as rivers to the sea.
Familiar acts are beautiful through love;
Labour, and pain, and grief, in life's green grove
Sport like tame beasts: none knew how gentle they
could be!”

—SHELLEY: *Revolt of Islam* and *Prometheus Unbound*.

“ Grief overcame,
And I was stopping up my frantic ears,
When, past all hindrance of my trembling hands,
A voice came, sweeter, sweeter than all tune,
And still it cried, ‘ Apollo! young Apollo!
The morning-bright Apollo: young Apollo!’
I fled, it followed me, and cried, ‘ Apollo!’”

—KEATS: *Hyperion*.

III.

THE DREAMLESS DARK.

“ 'Tis but the cloudy darkness dense ;
Though blank the tale it tells,
No God, no Truth ! yet He, in sooth,
Is there — within it dwells ;
Within the sceptic darkness deep
He dwells that none may see,
Till idol forms and idol thoughts
Have passed and ceased to be.”

— CLOUGH : *The New Sinai.*

“ For rigorous teachers seized my youth,
And purged its faith, and trimm'd its fire,
Shew'd me the high, white star of Truth,
There bade me gaze, and there aspire.”

“ Even so we leave behind,
As, charter'd by some unknown Powers,
We stem across the sea of life by night,
The joys which were not for our use design'd ;—
The friends to whom we had no natural right,
The homes that were not destined to be ours.”

“ We cannot kindle when we will
The fire which in the heart resides ;
The spirit bloweth and is still,
In mystery our soul abides.
But tasks in hours of insight will'd
Can be through hours of gloom fulfill'd.”

“ And the width of the waters, the hush
Of the grey expanse where he floats,
Freshening its current and spotted with foam
As it draws to the Ocean, may strike
Peace to the soul of the man on its breast —
As the pale waste widens around him,
As the banks fade dimmer away,
As the stars come out, and the night-wind
Brings up the stream
Murmurs and scents of the infinite sea.”

— ARNOLD: *The Grand Chartreuse, Human Life, Morality, The Future.*

IV.

DREAMS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY.

" You came, and the sun came after,
And the green grew golden above ;
And the flag-flowers lightened with laughter,
And the meadow-sweet shook with love."

—SWINBURNE : *An Interlude.*

Hidden by my golden hair,
Wilt thou weep that sweet days wear?
Kiss me, love ! for who knoweth
What thing cometh after death ?

—MORRIS : *The Earthly Paradise.*

" Under the arch of Life, where love and death,
Terror and mystery, guard her shrine, I saw
Beauty enthroned ; and though her gaze struck awe,
I drew it in as simply as my breath.
Here are the eyes which, over and beneath,
The sky and sea bend on thee,—which can draw,
By sea or sky or woman, to one law,
The allotted bondman of her palm and wreath.
This is that Lady Beauty, in whose praise
Thy voice and hand shake still, —long known to thee
By flying hair and fluttering hem, — the beat
Following her daily of thy heart and feet,
How passionately and irretrievably,
In what fond flight, how many ways and days ! "

"Brows, hands, and lips, heart, mind, and voice,
Kisses and words of Love-Lily,—
Oh! bid me with your joy rejoice
Till riotous longing rest in me!
Ah! let not hope be still distraught,
But find in her its gracious goal,
Whose speech Truth knows not from her thought,
Nor Love her body from her soul."
—ROSSETTI: *Sibylla Palmifera* and *Love-Lily*.

V.

THE DREAM OF GOD.

“ The sun, the moon, the stars, the seas, the hills and
the plains —
Are not these, O Soul, the Vision of Him who reigns?
Is not the Vision He? tho’ He be not that which He
seems?
Dreams are true while they last, and do we not live in
dreams?”

“ The hills are shadows, and they flow
From form to form, and nothing stands;
They melt like mist, the solid lands,
Like clouds they shape themselves and go.
But in my spirit will I dwell,
And dream my dream, and hold it true.”
—TENNYSON: *Higher Pantheism* and *In Memoriam*.

“ If I stoop
Into a dark tremendous sea of cloud,
It is but for a time; I press God’s lamp
Close to my breast; its splendor, soon or late,
Will pierce the gloom.”

—BROWNING: *Paracelsus*.

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